

Chapter Six • Parks, Open Space, and Recreation



Chapter 6

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation

Introduction

Parks, open space, and recreational facilities are important to the health and quality of life within any community. Parks provide space and a pleasant atmosphere in which citizens can enjoy leisure and recreational activities of all types. "Open space" can refer to many types of land, such as active or passive parkland, or just small areas of land that are not occupied by structures. In Falls Church, parks, open space, and linear greenways complement the relatively modest size of the residential lots that characterize the City and the fairly dense redevelopment that is occurring in the commercial corridors. Trail and greenway features can provide connectivity within the City to reduce the need for vehicular transport. Vegetated open spaces also provide environmental benefits by producing less runoff than similarly sized developed parcels, lowering ambient temperatures, improving air quality, providing natural habitat for many species of plants and animals, and providing buffers for the City's streams.

The City's inventory of parkland and open space is small and there is so little vacant land with which to create parkland, that the preservation of the existing passive and recreational open space is extremely important. In addition, the City must devise methods of acquiring additional targeted parcels to convert to park or open space use as those parcels become available for sale through a variety of acquisition or conservation techniques.

This chapter describes the existing network of parks and open space, including the various types or designations of parks and open space; recreational facilities and programs; approaches for maintaining and improving those facilities; and methods for obtaining additional recreational and open space facilities.

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Description of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities and Programs

The City operates 19 parks made up of natural open space areas, mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and school property recreational facilities. This includes 52 acres of active parkland and 7.2 acres of passive parkland/natural resource areas. The W&OD Trail right-of-way includes a 16.1 acre swath within the City, that is maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The City's parks include play and sports equipment, picnic facilities, natural areas, and ballfields. **Figure 6-1** includes a list of other facilities located within these parks. **Figure 6-2** contains a map of the City's recreational

facilities. A local bike trail traverses the City and a portion of the W&OD Railroad Regional Park, also known as the W&OD Trail, runs through Falls Church. A brief description of the City's natural resources and the types of parks and recreational areas follows this section.

The Falls Church Recreation and Parks Division offers year-round sports, recreational, and leisure-time programs and activities for all age groups and interest levels. These programs include a variety of cultural and hobby classes, athletic leagues, special events, and trips. The Urban Forestry Division is responsible for landscaping; maintaining all City-owned properties including parks, rights-of-way, streetscape areas, and greenways; and educating resi-

dents about the benefits of the City's vegetative resources. The City's Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was created under the City Charter to advise the Director of Recreation and Parks and the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation and parks. This group promotes and monitors recreational facilities and program planning.

The City's Community Center is located adjacent to Cherry Hill Park and City Hall. It features a multi-purpose gymnasium, game room, hobby classrooms, and meeting spaces. The building also serves as a senior center, teen center, recreation center, entertainment center, preschool, informational center, and as a meeting place for many of the social, club, and organizational activities in Falls Church.

Cherry Hill Farmhouse and Barn are also operated by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks, and are used for a variety of social and cultural events. Falls Church City residents also utilize school facilities within the City (after school hours) and other facilities in neighboring Arlington and Fairfax Counties for recreational and community use.

Natural Resource Areas

Natural resource areas are vital to the maintenance of natural functions such as plant and wildlife reproduction and feeding. They also create public enjoyment and preserve open space in its natural form. Common urban examples of natural resource areas are floodplains, wetlands, and stream valley parks. Since these areas are intended for the study and enjoyment of nature, any future development within them should primarily be limited to access points, nature study facilities, and enhanced natural features. The City's park and open space system has three natural resource areas: Isaac Crossman Park at Four Mile Run, the Rees site (open space behind the Courts at Falls Park), and the Hamlett tract (adjacent to the Rees site). Together, these sites contain approximately twelve acres of conservation area.

Mini Parks

Mini parks are the smallest City park classification. They serve limited or isolated recreational needs within a service area of a quarter of a mile or less. The sizes of mini parks in Falls Church range from 0.1 acres to approximately 0.50 acres. There is a total of approximately one acre of mini parkland inside the City.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are "walk to" parks that primarily serve the surrounding neighborhood. These parks have amenities for passive leisure activities and informal active recreation. In Falls Church, the service area of such parks is between one-quarter of a mile and one-half of a mile. The sizes of neighborhood parks in Falls Church range from 0.80 acres to approximately 3.1 acres and there is a total of almost 9.0 acres of neighborhood parkland within the City.

School Parks

Located on City school properties, school parks are the only facilities that contain regulation athletic fields. These parks total over 23 acres and represent the largest segment of the City's park space.

Community Parks

Community parks are "ride to" parks designed to serve a group of neighborhoods, but because Falls Church is such a small jurisdiction, its community parks tend to serve the entire City. The facilities in these parks typically include athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground equipment, and provisions for passive recreation, such as benches and picnic areas. In most instances, community parks are located near major streets and arterials to provide better access. The City has three community park areas that total approximately 17 acres: the City Hall/Cherry Hill Park/Community Center complex, Madison Park, and Cavalier Trail Park.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are intended to serve residents in a multi-jurisdictional area. Regional parks are developed primarily to make special natural resources available for recreation use. These parks are generally designed for activities that are centered around natural resources such as boating, swimming, fishing, and hiking. They can also serve as sports complexes with athletic fields, multi-purpose courts, swimming pools, play grounds, and golf courses. The City of Falls Church is a founding member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), which has preserved over 11,000 acres of park and open spaces in Northern Virginia. These parks are located within a one-hour drive of Falls Church. The Washington and Old Dominion trail, that runs through the City, is also an NVRPA facility.

Greenways

Greenways are linear open space corridors that connect parks and recreation sites, areas with significant and sensitive ecological and heritage resource value, wildlife habitats, riparian corridors, and Citywide trails. Greenways connect with each other and with residential communities, employment and commercial areas, and transit destinations. The City owns a small swath of land in and adjacent to the banks of Tripps and Four Mile Runs. Cavalier Trail Park, Berman Park, and Isaac Crossman Park at Four Mile Run make up part of these linear open space corridors.

Bike Trails

An additional element of the City's park and recreation system is the bike trail system, which supplements the W&OD Trail. As presently developed, this five-mile system provides a single route that loops through the City, utilizing both exclusive bikeways and shared streets and sidewalks. As such, it is used mostly for recreational purposes and for commuting.

Figure 6-1 • Classification of City-Owned Parks by Site, Service Area, Facilities, and Population

City-Owned Parks and Open Space (Numbers Match Figure 6-2)	Classification	Approximate Total Acreage	Service Area	Location Inside or Outside City Boundaries	Facilities
(1) Mount Daniel	School Park	3.5	1/4 Mile	2328 N. Oak St. – Just north of the City Boundary in Fairfax County at the terminus of N. Oak Street/Outside	Basketball Court (1) Play Equipment Softball/Soccer Field (1)
(2) George Mason Middle/High School	School Park	14.2	Entire City	7124 Leesburg Pike – Northwest of the City boundary in Fairfax County on Haycock Road/Outside	Tennis Courts (4 lighted) Baseball/Softball Fields (3) Track Soccer/Football Field
(3) Thomas Jefferson Elementary School	School Park	5.5	Entire City	601 S. Oak Street – between S. Lee Street and Seaton Lane./Inside	Basketball Court (1) Softball/Baseball Fields (2) Soccer Field (1) Play Equipment Bike and Hike Trail
(4) City Hall/Cherry Hill/Community Center Complex	Community Park	8.0	Entire City	300 Park Avenue – the intersection of Park Avenue and Little Falls Street/Inside	Community Center with indoor basketball courts (2) Basketball Court (1 outdoor lighted) Tennis Courts (2) Horseshoe Court Play Equipment Outdoor Volleyball Court (1) Picnic Shelter Picnic Tables and Grills Park Benches Barn with 19th century tool collection
(5) Madison Park	Community Park	3.3	Entire City	In the 300 block of Lawton Street	Basketball Court (1) Softball Field (1) Soccer Field (1) Play Equipment Picnic Tables Park Benches
(6) Cavalier Trail/Tripps Run	Community Park	5.3	Entire City	Between W. Westmoreland and Sherrow Avenue/Inside	Basketball Court (1 lighted) Tennis Courts (2 lighted) Picnic Table and Grill Bike and Hike Trail Play Equipment Park Benches
(7) Roberts Park	Neighborhood/Community Park	2.0	Entire City	Between Poplar and Randolph Streets/Inside	Basketball Court (1) Picnic Shelter Picnic Table and Grill Play Equipment Park Benches
(8) Crossman Park at Four Mile Run	<u>Natural Resource Area</u> Neighborhood Park	8.5	Entire City	Describes portion that is inside City at northern border between Washington St. and Van Buren St. – remainder in Arlington County	<u>Nature Trail</u> Play Equipment Picnic Tables and Grills Park Benches
(9) <u>Donald S. Frady Park</u> North Cherry Street Tennis Courts	Neighborhood Park	3.1	1/4 Mile	On East Broad St., between N. Fairfax St. and N. Cherry St./Inside	Gazebo Play Equipment Horseshoe Court Game Table Mini-Amphitheatre <u>Picnic Tables and Grills</u> <u>Tennis Courts (2)</u>

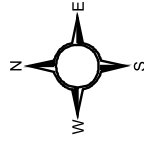
Figure 6-1 • Classification of City-Owned Parks by Site, Service Area, Facilities, and Population (continued)

City-Owned Parks and Open Space	Classification	Approximate Total Acreage	Service Area	Location Inside or Outside City Boundaries	Facilities
(10) Lincoln Park	Mini-Park	0.5	1/8 Mile	At intersection of Great Falls St. and Lincoln Ave./Inside	Basketball Court (1) Play Equipment Picnic Table and Grill Park Benches
(11) Berman Park	Neighborhood Park and Greenway	1.4	1/4 Mile	Between S. Spring St. and S. West St./Inside	Play Equipment Bike and Hike Trail Picnic Shelter Picnic Tables and Grill
(12) Big Chimneys Park	Neighborhood Park	1.2	1/4 Mile	Between Shirley Street and W. Annandale Rd./Inside	Play Equipment Picnic Tables and Grill Park Benches
(13) W&OD Trail	Regional Park	16.0	Northern Virginia	Traverses northern portion of the City between Park and Lincoln Avenues and along Railroad Avenue. Describes portion that is inside City – remainder is in other N. Virginia jurisdictions	Running Track Bike/Walking Trail Fitness Stations Community Memorial Gardens
(14) Fort Taylor Park	Historic Site/Park	0.5	Entire City	Northeast corner of intersection of E. Broad St. and Roosevelt Street/inside	Historic Trail Marker Park Bench
(15) Boundary Marker	Mini Park	0.3 (City owns 0.9 acres)	Shared by Arlington, Falls Church, and Fairfax Counties	Describes portion that is inside City-remainder is in other N. Virginia jurisdictions	Historic Boundary marker for District of Columbia
(16) South Washington St./Annandale Rd. Park	Mini Park	0.1	1/8 Mile	Intersection of S. Washington St. and Annandale Rd./Inside	Landscaped area created as a result of street realignments
(17) Falls Park Open Space	Natural Resource Area	1.3	Entire City	In the rear of the Falls Park townhouse project on Rees Place /Inside	Proposed for natural/conservation area with trails
(18) Hamlett Tract	Natural Resource Area	2.6	Entire City	Adjacent to Rees Place	Proposed for natural/conservation area with trails
(19) West End Park	Neighborhood Park	0.80	1/2 Mile	At the intersection of E. Broad St. and the W&OD Trail/Inside	Play Equipment Picnic Tables and Grills Park Benches
(20) Larry Graves Fields	Regional Park (shared with Fairfax County)	0.7	Entire City	Describes portion that is inside the City on Hillwood Ave. across from Whittier Development	Parking and remainder of the area that City has access to includes 2 soccer fields and 1 softball/baseball field
Total Acres		78.8 acres			
Total Acres within City Boundary		61.1 acres			
Total Acres on School Sites		23.2 acres			

Source: City of Falls Church Recreation and Parks Division and Geographic Information System

Figure 6-2

**Parks and
Open Space**



**City of
Falls Church**

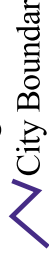
LEGEND



City-Owned Parkland



Regional Parkland



City Boundary



1/2 Mile Radius
of City Boundary



See Figure 6-1
in text for City
park numbers

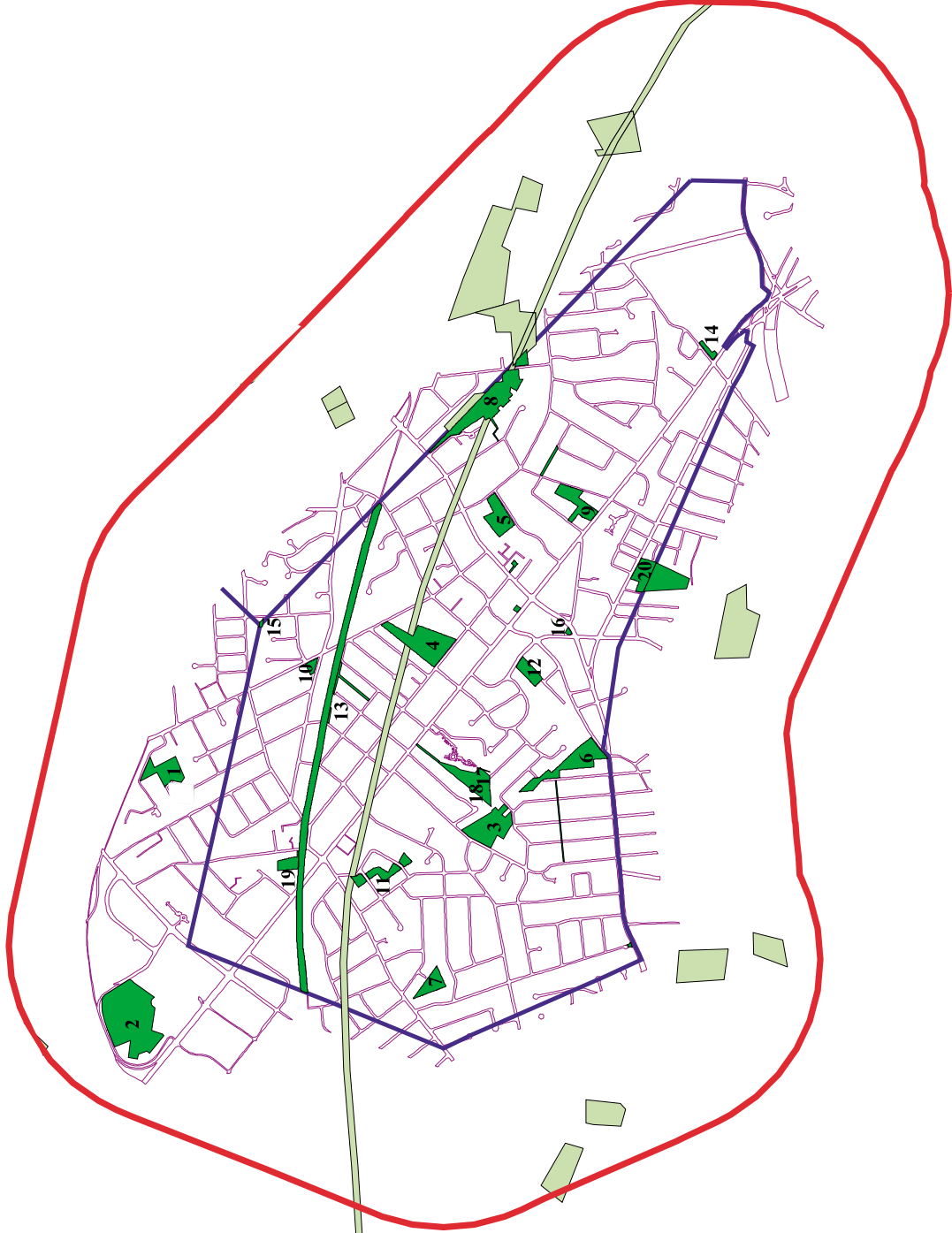
**2005 City of Falls
Church Comprehensive Plan**

File Name: Comprehensive Plan
Maps 2005

File Location: h:\gis pc proj/
Date Created: March 2006

Data Sources: City Base Data Layers

Disclaimer: The City of Falls Church
is not responsible for loss, if any,
resulting from the use of this map
or the related data.



Park Master Planning

In 1999 the City Council passed a resolution to initiate a master planning process for each neighborhood park in the City. The purpose of this process is to accurately locate existing features and facilities, guide any future development of the parks, and protect and preserve the City's open space. As of 2005, the City had completed master plans for Cherry Hill, Frady, Madison Park, and Roberts Parks. Seven plans are yet to be completed.

Cherry Hill Park Master Plan

The Cherry Hill Park Master Plan calls for the park to provide active and passive recreation, to serve as an educational facility for cultural history, and to serve as a venue for major City events such as Farm Day, the Fall Festival, Summer Concerts, and the Memorial Day Festival.

Future plans for Cherry Hill Park include new landscaped beds to be installed along the paved path from the City Hall parking lot to the back of the farmhouse. These beds will replace the bollards and will include plants that would have been planted on the site in the 1840's. A walkway will also be installed from the end of the trail behind the farmhouse to the entrance of the barn. A simple open structure, known as a summerhouse, will be constructed immediately behind the farmhouse. In addition, new playground equipment for children older than elementary age will be installed in the play equipment area; the volleyball court will be relocated; the civil war garden will be redesigned and replanted; and as non-native trees die within the park, they will be replaced with native species.

Frady Park Master Plan

The purposes of Frady Park as outlined by its Master Plan are to preserve and protect its natural resources; provide park amenities that facilitate their use for passive leisure activities and informal active recreation; and commemorate the first Virginia Arbor Day celebration, while emphasizing the Victorian architecture of the period.

In the future the City plans to create a monument to commemorate the first Arbor Day in Virginia, held in 1892 at the Jefferson Institute, which existed on the present day site of Frady Park. A decorative, Victorian style water fountain will be installed in the park along with some new signage, a lawn bowling green, and new ADA compliant play equipment. In addition, the existing gazebo will be modified and enhanced to reflect the Victorian theme of the park. Finally, native trees will replace non-native trees when they are in need of removal.

Madison Park Master Plan

The Madison Park Master Plan states the following purposes: to preserve and protect natural resources; to pro-

vide an athletic field that can be used for organized and unorganized play; and to provide for a variety of passive and active recreational activities. New plan elements for Madison Park include the addition of a small picnic shelter, a field renovation, a renovation of the basketball court, and an overhaul of the landscaped beds around the parking lot and along Lawton Street. Finally, non-native trees will be replaced with native trees when removals are necessary.

Roberts Park Master Plan

The primary objectives of the Roberts Park Master Plan are to preserve and protect natural resources and provide a variety of passive and active recreational activities for all age groups. The field at Roberts Park will not normally be used for scheduled practices or league play, but will instead be left open for informal drop-in use.

New objectives for this park are to establish a yearly maintenance program for the field to improve the turf and to provide a safer surface; install new playground equipment; actively pursue the acquisition of land within the floodplain adjacent to the park to increase the size of the park; add native vegetation to improve the screening between the fenced playground area and the playfield; and consider either repairing the pipes in Tripps Run or daylight a portion of it within the park.

Cavalier Trail Park Master Plan

The Cavalier Trail Park Master Plan primary purposes are to preserve and protect natural resources and to provide a variety of passive and active recreational activities for all age groups. Other objectives for visitors to the park are to allow them to participate in a variety of passive and active recreational activities and to enable them to learn more about environmental issues such as backyard composting, reforestation and improving water quality.

Some of the amenities included in the approved site plan for Cavalier Trail Park were never built. Rather than include these in the Master Plan for the park they are being eliminated from the plan because they are no longer needed. These included a footbridge near the basketball court, a volleyball court, and open space where the Aurora House is now sited.

New planned elements for Cavalier Trail Park include interpretive signage about Tripps Run, watershed information, reforestation, and the Chesapeake Bay preservation efforts; an easily identified pervious access trail to the park in the City-owned alley next to 104 West Westmoreland Road; and the creation of a new access point to the south side of the park. In addition the master plan also recommends the creation of a rain garden; a backyard compost demonstration area; a water fountain; and an expansion of

the park on land already owned by the City and potentially with the purchase of additional adjacent land; new playground equipment; considering pervious materials for future surface improvements to the parking area; improvements to the mulched walking trail; native shrubs planted near the tot lot and native trees planted elsewhere in the park; and implementing the vegetative maintenance plan for this section of Tripps Run.

Future Trends and Projections

The City's population is expected to increase during the next 20 years, thereby increasing the demand for parks, open space and recreational facilities. The City is already in need of additional active outdoor playfield space and a variety of other passive and active recreational desires have been discussed in the recent past. For example, given the location of existing parks and open space, there is a potential for eventually linking the entire system through the implementation of an effective greenway and bicycle trail system. With the concentration of parks in the midwest section of the City and the W&OD Trail traversing the north end, future linkage through an effective greenway and bicycle trail system seems highly feasible. In many instances, bike trails and jogging paths are used

to link the city's major parks and open spaces, ultimately increasing accessibility as well as intensity of use. Such greenways can also act to preserve sensitive buffer areas within stream corridors.

Given the location of existing parks and open space, there is a potential for eventually linking the entire system through the implementation of an effective greenway and bicycle trail system. With the concentration of parks in the midwest section of the City and the W&OD Trail traversing the north end, future linkage seem highly feasible.

In 2004 a City Park and Open Space Acquisition Committee was formed to make recommendations on approaches to obtaining additional parkland and open space. The final report from this committee has been completed.

The City's parks, recreation, and open space goals and strategies are to be achieved through a variety of means. The goals and strategies within the matrix below describe methods for implementing the suggested changes. The "Required Action" and "Responsible Party(ies)," columns of the matrix provide additional guidance to the City in areas which will require additional actions or resources to achieve the City's parks, open space, and recreation goals and strategies.

VISION: The City will conserve and maintain existing parks, open space, recreational facilities, and natural features. Land that is currently designated for parks and open space acquisition will be acquired and the City will continue to provide facilities and programs for active and passive recreational activities, which along with existing and new regional facilities, will meet the needs of all residents and persons working in the City. The City's parkland, open spaces, and greenways network will serve as a functional system within which people will travel to various destinations, recreate, and enjoy nature. This system will also fill the aesthetic and environmental requirements of the City to offset the highly developed nature of privately owned land in our suburban setting.

GOAL 1. Maintain or improve existing recreational facilities and programs.

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
A. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the programming of active and passive activities.	The Recreation Division currently surveys customers about their desires and satisfaction.	Continue to perform annual surveys of recreation consumers to evaluate existing programs and determine how improvements can be made. Make adjustments to recreation programs per the survey results. Ensure adequate levels of funding for staffing and programs within the annual budget.	Recreation and Parks Division
B. Develop and implement a facilities plan for parks and recreation facilities.	A facilities plan may include detailed descriptions of proposed facilities and maintenance schedules for existing facilities, architectural drawings, funding sources, staffing and timetables for the completion of projects. Plans should ensure that facilities are well designed, property located, and well maintained.	Designate staff or outside resources for the creation of such a plan. Review past and current maintenance records. Prioritize those facilities in the greatest need of upgrading. Locate funding for the implementation of the plan through the budget and CIP. Perform annual inspections of City facilities and itemize maintenance needs. Perform maintenance tasks on a regular basis.	Recreation and Parks Division, School Board, and Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
C. Promote the City's recreational activities with better communication tools.	Recreational activities are currently advertised in several print medium, but could be expanded.	Use the City's website, other electronic media, pamphlets, and other print medium to provide information about sports activities, program offerings, to allow for on-line class registration, and to inform the public about services. Also establish a link to the Northern Virginia Park Authority's website and advertise facilities and programs in other jurisdictions in FOCUS.	Recreation and Parks Division and Office of Communications
D. Continue to emphasize the cooperative use of City school facilities during after school hours.	City residents and organizations currently use school facilities after hours for meetings, special events, soccer, baseball, basketball, etc. The continued use of these facilities alleviates some of the City's need for additional recreational space at a much smaller cost than the purchase and development of more land.	Have a liaison from the School Board on the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board to facilitate this cooperative relationship.	Recreation and Parks Division, Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, and the School Board

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
E. Continue to develop and consider expanding the relationship with Arlington and Fairfax Counties regarding the use of existing and new recreational facilities and programs for City residents.	The City currently has a cooperative relationship to participate in Arlington and Fairfax County sports leagues and the City shares field space in certain locations. The Larry Graves Field is an example of field space that is shared with Fairfax County. Many City residents also frequent the parks owned by these two counties.	Seek additional joint use of such field, open space, and parkland and creation of new regional recreational and open space.	Recreation and Parks Division and Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
F. Study how City facilities might benefit from charging non-resident usage fees.	Users of many City recreational facilities, including the Community Center, do not pay fees. Such fees should be considered to defray operational costs.	Designate staff to survey other local jurisdictions and present several options for possible user fees.	Recreation and Parks Division
G. Continue City events such as the Memorial Day festivities, and the Fall Festival.	These events are extremely popular for City residents and neighboring residents. They encourage citizen interaction and increase community interest and spirit. The City should continue to sponsor these events.	Seek new events that foster the same level of community spirit.	Recreation and Parks Division
H. Pursue the addition of indoor recreational facilities, such as additional basketball courts, recreational class space, a swimming pool, performing arts center, and an ice skating rink.	These types of facilities are continually requested by residents to increase entertainment activities for youths and adults. Residents have often complained that they must spend so much of their entertainment budget outside of the City, and are thereby not supporting the local economy as much as they could.	The development of these types of facilities should be actively pursued through economic development opportunities using proffers, public-private agreements, and cooperation with adjacent jurisdictions.	Recreation and Parks Division, Planning Division, and City Manager
I. Ensure that recreational programs and facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.	The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all public facilities be accessible to persons with disabilities. The majority of the City's recreational and cultural facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities, but the City should continue to offer programs that cater to these persons.	Complete surveying all facilities that are used for recreation purposes for ADA compliance. Locate funding for any compliance revisions that are necessary through the CIP or budget.	Recreation and Parks Division and Department of Environmental Services
J. Continue to fully support the work of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA).	The City relies heavily on the area's regional parks, such as the W&OD Trail, and coordinators of those parks. It is in the City's best interest to continue to participate in any NVRPA activities and support it in its mission to plan, acquire, develop, and maintain regional parks and facilities to serve the population of Northern Virginia. The City currently holds two seats on the NVRPA Board.	Increase information provided to residents on NVRPA facilities and activities.	Recreation and Parks Division

GOAL 2. Maintain high quality parkland and open space and seek the acquisition of new space.

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
A. Complete and implement Master Plans for all of the City parks and open space.	An inventory of all existing public trees has been created and individual Master Plans have been completed for Frady, Cherry Hill, and Madison Parks.	Complete Park Master Plans for all relative parks and consider combining into a city-wide park and open space plan.	Recreation and Parks Division and Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
B. Continue to maintain the high quality level of existing parkland and open space.	The City's parkland and open space is attractively landscaped and maintained.	Annual funding within the City budgets should continue to ensure that this level of quality is maintained through adequate staffing and materials.	Recreation and Parks Division
C. Pursue possibilities for the acquisition of additional open space.	In some cases during the development process, the City has the opportunity to receive additional open space through the proffer system. This land is usually unbuildable due to floodplain, steep slopes, Chesapeake Bay Act requirements or other physical constraints, but could be used as parkland. In addition, a variety of other tools should be made available for open space acquisition when properties become available.	<p>The City should encourage open space fund proffers and identify other vehicles for the purchase, lease, or easement dedication of additional open space.</p> <p>Actively pursue, by other means, the acquisition of parcels of parkland recommended in the 2005 Final Report of the City's Open Space Task Force before these undeveloped tracts are developed.</p> <p>Consider purchasing a parcel and/or lot adjacent to a parkland when it becomes available to expand the existing park.</p> <p>Appropriate funds for the acquisition of land and development of parks annually in the CIP, so the City will be able to purchase available lands quickly.</p> <p>Encourage the formation of a non-profit entity to allow for private and estate tax-free contributions to a fund to be used for the maintenance or acquisition of open space or parkland. Also consider tax incentives and conservation easements as a means of acquiring additional open space.</p>	Recreation and Parks Division, Planning Division, and City Manager
D. Consider maintaining new parkland or open space areas in a natural state for passive recreational purposes.	The City has so few areas of open space that are still wooded or that remain in their natural state. The intensity of proposed uses and their impact on the natural environment should be considered when plans are being made to develop open space for recreational purposes.	Critically review plans for the development of open space areas.	Recreation and Parks Division and Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
E. Minimize impervious surface in parks.	Impervious surface in parks usually includes parking lots, sidewalks, and buildings, all of which contribute to the amount of stormwater runoff into local waterways. Alternative techniques for providing these facilities are available that allow water infiltration, while meeting the needs of patrons.	Consider semi-pervious or pervious alternatives when new impervious surfaces are desired or existing surfaces are to be repaired or replaced.	Recreation and Parks Division, Planning Division, and Department of Environmental Services

Strategies	Explanation	Required Actions	Responsible Party(ies)
F. Continue efforts to link parks, open space, transportation corridors, schools, commercial areas, City Center and nearby metro stations with bike trails and footpaths for transportation and recreational purposes.	The City's existing trail system and the W&OD Trail link some of the commonly used areas within the City; however, this network is not complete. Additional links with footpaths and bike trails should also be developed to create an integrated and convenient alternative to vehicular travel and provide some type of connected habitat for wildlife.	Create a Greenways and Trail Plan. A Committee should be formed to develop an inventory of greenway connections and create such a plan.	Recreation and Parks Division
G. Continue to ensure that parks and trails are safe.	The City currently patrols parks on a regular basis. Its two bicycled police officers and bicycled officers from other local jurisdictions regularly patrol the W&OD Trail. The Police Department enforces the law that requires persons to vacate park properties after certain hours. Pedestrian police officers also attend special events held in the City's parks.	Continue current police services and consider adding foot and bicycle patrols.	Police Department

